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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 35 San Francisco, California, June, 1953 Number 6

APRIL ALAMEDA TRIP

Approximately thirty members and friends gathered at Bay Farm Island on April 25. The weather was clear and warm. Observations were made along the dike and Doolittle Drive in the morning. After lunch when the tide was lower a few people walked out to the old destroyers where knots and a surf scoter were seen, to add to the observations for the day. Western sandpipers were present everywhere in great concentration. Dowitchers and Forster terns were also well respresented. Only one Bonaparte Gull was observed, although a week previously they had been present in abundance. Knots, avocets, Caspian terns, and American egrets were also scarce as compared with the preceding week. The higher tide on this occasion may have been a factor in the variance. The following 47 species were observed.

Loon (species?), red-n. grebe, do.-cr. cormorant, grt. bl. heron, Am. egret, blk.-cr. n. heron, mallard, l. scaup, Am. golden-eye, surf scoter, t. vulture, spar. hawk, coot, sem. plover, killdeer, blk.-bel. plover, blk. turnstone, long-b. curlew, willet, knot, red-b. sandpiper, dowitcher, w. sandpiper, m. godwit, sanderling, avocet; gl.-w., Cal., ring-b., short-b., and Bon. gulls; For. and Casp. terns; h. lark; rough-w., barn, and cliff swallows; scrub jay, robin, water pipit, house sparrow, w. meadowlark, Br. blackbird, house finch, br. towhee; Sav. and song sparrows.

— Doris Brenneman, *Leader and Historian.*

RARE TEAL SEEN ON MAY GOLDEN GATE PARK TRIP

Lovely spring weather brought 35 members and friends to Golden Gate Park on May 9. The main attraction of the day was the falcated teal (*Eunetta falcata*) seen on Stow Lake. It was first seen on May 5 by the leader, and then identified with Dr. Orr and Sandy Sprunt. (It was seen on Metson Lake on Apr. 5, but not identified — Ed.) This may be the first record of this very beautiful duck on the North American Continent, or, more probably,

it may be an escape since it has been introduced frequently. It is native to eastern Asia, breeds in Siberia, Japan, etc., and has been recorded once on St. George Island off Alaska in 1917 (Hanna, Auk, *37*, 250 (1920). In appearance the falcated teal is somewhat similar to the green-winged teal, but it is larger and has a white throat and neck, separated with a dark green band. There are several feathers on each side that curve down over the tail, hence its name.

On Strawberry Hill, the island in Stow Lake, Allen hummingbirds were observed in all stages, from courting and eggs, to young ready to leave the nest. Other nests seen during the day were those of the robin, chestnut-backed chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, red-shafted flicker, coot, and spotted towhee. Many cedar waxwings, and several cowbirds and olive-sided flycatchers were seen and heard. The following 36 species were observed.

Mallard, Am. widgeon, pintail, falcated teal, canvasback, ruddy duck, sp. hawk, Cal. quail, coot, killdeer, Cal. gull, mour. dove; Anna and Allen hummingbirds; red-sh. flicker, downy woodpecker; w. and olive-s. flycatchers; ch.-b. chickadee, red-br. nuthatch, robin, olive-backed thrush, cedar waxwing; yel., Town., and pil. warblers; house sparrow, Br. blackbird, br.-h. cowbird; purple and house finches; siskin, sp. towhee, Ore. junco; wh.-cr. and song sparrows.

— Joel Hedgpeth, *Leader and Historian.*

MAY NAPA COUNTY TRIP

At Napa on May 17 it was chilly and there was a heavy overcast. A group of 25 members and friends met at the old bridge on the Silverado Trail. The early comers were rewarded by seeing a green heron. After spending a long hour in this area, we moved west to the Napa River bridge. A chat sang long and loud from exposed perches for us here. A second year male oriole was also seen here, which we finally decided must be a Bullock. The next stop was in the canyon of Mill Creek where there were good views of yellow warblers. Just before we got to Lokoya Lodge, we emerged from under the overcast and the rest of the day was bright and sunny. In the fine redwoods and Douglas firs at the lodge we were greeted by a deluge of song — but no pileated woodpeckers. The singers included western tanager, creeper, Audubon warbler, house wren, solitary vireo and chipping sparrow. After lunch the group scattered; some stayed to explore the trails in this beautifully wooded area. A total of 57 species was observed.

Grn. heron, t. vulture; red-t. and sp. hawks; Cal. quail, sem. plover, killdeer, mour. dove, red-sh. flicker; Cal., downy and hairy woodpeckers; w. wood pewee; w. and olive-s flycatchers; rough-w. and cliff swallows; scrub jay, crow, ch.-b. chickadee, pl. titmouse, bush-tit, creeper, wren-tit; house and Bew. wrens; robin, olive-b. thrush, cedar waxwing, l. shrike; Hut., sol., and warb. vireos; or.-cr., yel., Aud., Macg., and pil. warblers; chat, house sparrow, w. meadowlark; red-winged and Br. blackbirds; Bull. oriole, cowbird, w. tanager, bl.-h. grosbeak, laz. bunting; purple and house finches; grn.-b. goldfinch; sp. and br. towhees; Ore. junco; chip. and song sparrows; blk. phoebe.

— A. Laurence Curl, *Leader and Historian.*

OBSERVATIONS

In the May GULL, the BAND-TAILED PIGEONS, Ross, Apr. 4, were reported by Junea W. Kelly. COMMON LOON, breeding plumage, W. Alameda, May 5 (Henry Wagner); RED-THROATED LOON, winter plumage, W. Alameda, May 9 (Wagner); HORNED GREBE, breeding plumage, Middle Chain-of-Lakes, Golden Gate Park, Apr. 25 - 30 (Joel Hedgpeth); GREEN HERON, 2 in Niles Canyon, Mar. 21 (Herbert Wong); RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, near Napa, May 10 (Larry Curl); CLAPPER RAIL, Bay Farm Island, Apr. 6 (Wong); RUDDY TURNSTONE, W. Alameda, May 5 (Wagner); SPOTTED SANDPIPER, Stow Lake, Golden Gate Park, Apr. 16 (JH); BLACK-NECKED STILT, 5 north of Moss Landing, Mar. 28 (Wong); NORTHERN PHALAROPE, W. Alameda, 2 on May 15 (Wagner); near Berkeley Pier, May 16 (LC); 5 on Metson Lake, Golden Gate Park, May 17 (JH); LEAST TERN, 2, W. Alameda, May 15 (Wagner); VAUX SWIFT, pursued by hummingbird, near Wildcat Peak, Tilden Park, May 9 (LC); PILEATED WOODPECKER, north of Lokoya, May 10 (LC); ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER, El Cerrito, Apr. 27 (LC); MOCKINGBIRD, El Cerrito, May 12 (LC); TOWNSEND WARBLER, near Napa, May 10 (LC); LAZULI BUNTING, Albany, May 13 (LC); GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE, Berkeley, May 16 (Margaret Breck); RUFOUS-CROWNED SPARROW, singing, near Wildcat Peak, Tilden Park, May 9 (LC).

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from San Francisco, N. W. Cox, H. L. Coggins, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Degen; from Oakland, Miss Mary Zoe Bissell, Dr. Ray A. Ericson, Miss Clesta Steffe; from Berkeley, Mrs. Anne M. Isham, Alexander Sprunt IV; from San Anselmo, Walter Schneider; from Sausalito, Mrs. Almada Washburn; from Mill Valley, James Whitehead.

According to the April 1953 Bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society Dr. Charles G. Sibley has accepted the post of Associate Professor of Ornithology at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., replacing Dr. Arthur A. Allen, who is retiring. Dr. Sibley, who was formerly connected with the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology in Berkeley, has been on the faculty of San Jose State College since 1949, and has served as Editor of the Bulletin of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

According to the Newsletter of the Contra Costa Park and Recreation Council, an Audubon Society has been organized in the Walnut Creek area, and are already holding meetings and field trips.

There will be a lecture at the Brazilian Room, Tilden Regional Park, on Sunday, June 14, at 3:00 p.m. Speaker, Charles Herrick, "Earthquakes in California".

AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA, at the Sugar Bowl near Donner Summit. Two-week sessions begin June 17, July 1, 15, and 29, and August 12. For further information contact the N. A. S. office in San Francisco at the address given on the last page.

Camera Magazine for April 1953 had an article on bird photography, "Hold That Pose, Mrs. Owl", by Richard Robinson.

JUNE MEETING

The 429th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on June 11th, following a six o'clock picnic supper at the Codornices Fireplace, Euclid Ave., opposite the Rose Garden in Berkeley. #7 bus. Bring supper and "faggots" for the fire! Dessert will be provided. Members who have been travelling during the past year will give the highlights of their bird observations for this annual "Birding Far Afield" program.

— DOROTHY DEAN SCOTT, *Program Chairman.*

JUNE MT. HAMILTON SPRINGS TRIP

On June 13 and 14 to Mt. Hamilton Springs on the headwaters of the Arroyo Hondo which is the principal source for Calaveras Reservoir. There will be birding both days as there is a private campground for those who would like to spend a night under the stars. There is a fee for camping Saturday night and also for entry and parking on Sunday. Water ouzels frequent Isabel Creek on which the campground is located and other birds are quite plentiful. Bring swimming suits if desired. Drive through Milpitas and Berryessa to the road which climbs Mt. Hamilton. After passing Smith Creek Ranger Station drive approximately two more miles up the mountain. At the sign "Mt. Hamilton Springs" turn left and drive down hill two or three miles to DeWitt Portal's campground. If camping overnight bring the necessary gear and food. Meeting time will be 12 on Saturday and 9:30 on Sunday at the campground. Leaders Harry and Betty Adamson, Lafayette 2164. Bring lunch, binoculars, etc., and interested friends.

JUNE STRAWBERRY CANYON TRIP

On Saturday, June 27, to Strawberry Canyon east of the U.C. campus. Meet at Bancroft Way and College Ave. at 8:45 and drive to the Botanical Gardens. This is a good area to observe lazuli buntings and hummingbirds around the flowering plants in the garden. There will also be a short walk up a trail leading to Panoramic Ridge. Bring binoculars, lunch if desired, and interested friends.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Program Chairman.*

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.
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For the Study and the Protection of Birds
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